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INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 2054
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 1008
RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 1807
RHMFSS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
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DEPT FOR AF, AF/W, INR/AA

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TAGS: PGOV PINR NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: BAUCHI STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY REMOVES
DEPUTY GOVERNOR FROM OFFICE

REF: A. ABUJA 1438
1B. ABUJA 1357
1C. ABUJA 1272
1D. ABUJA 1115
1E. ABUJA 0679

Classified By: Political Counselor James McAnulty for reasons 1.4. (b & d).

¶1. (SBU) In an expected but controversial act, the Bauchi State House of Assembly removed Deputy Governor Alhaji Mohammed Garba Gadi from office August 13, with 25 of 31 members voting against him. A panel set up in May to investigate offenses against Gadi returned charges of "gross misconduct," misuse of funds, and approval of contracts above his approval limits. Gadi maintained his innocence.

¶2. (C) Many local observers believe that Gadi's impeachment resulted from his refusal to defect from the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) when Governor Isa Yuguda made the switch in April 2009 (ref E). Voice of America correspondent Abdul Wahabi Muhammed echoed this viewpoint to poloff on August 14, adding that Governor Yuguda has nominated House Speaker Gamawa as the new Deputy. He confirmed Gadi would take legal action to challenge the ruling, and that Assembly members who were denied an opportunity to voice objections to the impeachment process may also go to court.

¶3. (C) COMMENT: Few doubt that Governor Yuguda engineered the removal of his former political ally to punish him for sticking with the ANPP. Yuguda is politically ambitious despite his checkered political and business history. He recently married a daughter of President Yar'Adua's, is considered to be in Yar'Adua's inner circle, and was in the running earlier this year to be the new governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, even though he once led what became a failed bank. END COMMENT.

SANDERS